

(Received via e-mail)

From: "Doug Barr"
To: <smcconnell@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 3/16/2009 1:14 PM
Subject: Rubicon draft abatement order

Sue,

From reading the reports involved, I am sure the claims made against the Rubicon Trail users regarding erosion are not true. El Dorado County is in firm control of the situation and will do the right thing for the Trail, the forest and the water system.

I have been enjoying the Rubicon Trail for almost 25 years. Although I've always followed the Tread Lightly! rules, I didn't get involved until eight years ago. I am the Tahoe side representative for Friends of the Rubicon (FOTR). My first project was helping 200 of my closest friends install 28 rolling dips on the Rubicon within the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. I'm currently the Vice President of the Rubicon Trail Foundation (RTF). As you know, we are a formal 501.c.3 organization dedicated to the future health of the trail and the education of it's users.

Every year I donate time and money to ensure the future of the Trail. The future of the Trail depends on the users maintaining it. We don't want to lose the Trail. We will maintain it. Every issue ever brought before FOTR has been resolved. If there are legitimate water issues along the Trail, point them out and they will be fixed. It's that simple.

The Rubicon Trail draws people from all over the world to El Dorado County. They buy fuel, food, parts, camping supplies, fishing supplies and many other items. The Rubicon is good for El Dorado County.

The individuals bringing the lawsuit against you are nothing but bullies. They want their way and are not open to compromise. They are not willing to share our public lands, they want them for themselves. Are you familiar with the issue around the road along Loon Lake? We were willing to share, they wanted it closed. FOTR, RTF and those we represent are willing to work with anyone to resolve any possible issues regarding the Rubicon Trail.

We staff the kiosk at Loon to educate and give out WAG bags and spill kits to those traveling the trail. We talk about water issues, oil spill issues, human waste issues, etc. There is a new kiosk at the Wentworth Springs entrance and permission has been given to build a kiosk at the Tahoe entrance. We are already doing the things the anti-motorized groups are trying to force on us.

I am asking that you trust El Dorado County in its efforts to maintain the Rubicon Trail. They have good track record. The users and support organizations. FOTR & RTF, also have an excellent track record.

Thank you,

Doug Barr